

RESOLUTION  
OF THE GOVERNING BOARD OF  
CLARK FORK VALLEY HOSPITAL

WHEREAS, numerous reports and studies authored by the University of Montana, including well respected consulting firms, have independently demonstrated the HELP Act has significantly benefited more than 95,000 Montanans who have received health care coverage as of October 1, 2018, representing 9.3% of our state's population; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has improved health outcomes and led to early detection of disease and ensured 7,026 women received breast cancer screenings, averted 2,313 possible cases of colon cancer, provided 28,683 patients with outpatient mental health services, delivered outpatient substance abuse treatment to 7,146 adults, in total 86,995 adults received preventive services from HELP Act benefits; and

WHEREAS, in Sanders County, more than 1,300 residents representing nearly 12% of the population are now receiving health care coverage under the HELP Act, resulting in 1,233 preventative primary care visits, improved health, screening, early detection, and overall economic benefit of county residents; and

WHEREAS, hospitals across Montana have seen uninsured rates reduced 48% and more importantly, Clark Fork Valley Hospital has remained financially viable due to a 60% reduction in uncompensated care levels; and

WHEREAS, Clark Fork Valley Hospital has redirected savings from its reduction in uncompensated care into adding physicians, upgrading facilities and equipment, implementing a local orthopedic surgery program, expanding our workforce and increasing payroll by \$2.5 million; and

WHEREAS, the loss of coverage provided by the HELP Act may put at risk the financial viability of our hospital and others. Last year our operating gain totaled \$575,000 and without the HELP Act, the hospital would likely have operated at break-even at best; and

WHEREAS, health care is the largest source of private sector income in Montana, representing 1 in 5 dollars earned and the second largest source of private sector employment representing 15.6% of the industry total, paying 25% higher than the statewide average; and


WHEREAS, the HELP Act has significantly stimulated Montana's economy according to the University of Montana's Bureau of Business and Economic Research, which reported that as the result of the HELP Act, 5,000 new jobs, \$270 million in personal income and \$500 million in additional economic output has been added to Montana's economy. Additionally, the HELP Act is expected to generate \$1.2 billion in personal income and \$2.6 billion in economic output or new sales; and

WHEREAS, the HELP Act has generated \$36 million in state budget savings by using federal funds to pay for state programs, freeing up state tax dollars for other priorities; and


NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the GOVERNING BOARD OF CLARK FORK VALLEY HOSPITAL endorses the HELP Act and supports repealing the sunset of the Act and further recognizes our patients, caregivers, and the citizens of Sanders County have a compelling interest in ensuring our hospital remains financially viable and an economic engine for our surrounding area; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the GOVERNING BOARD OF CLARK FORK VALLEY HOSPITAL strongly requests our legislative delegation and the Montana Legislature to repeal the sunset of the HELP Act and protect health care coverage for almost 100,000 Montanans and the \$2.6 billion economic engine it has created.

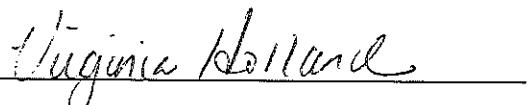
APPROVED ON THIS DAY, JANUARY 23, 2019, BY THE GOVERNING BOARD OF CLARK FORK VALLEY HOSPITAL.

  
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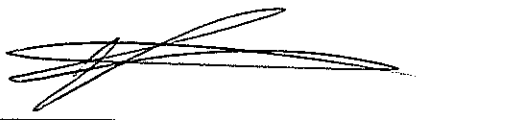
BINA Eggen  
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Denise Benson Board Member  
NAME, TITLE

  
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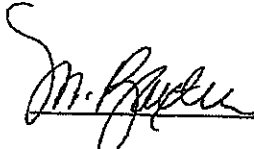
Virginia Holland, Board Member  
NAME, TITLE

  
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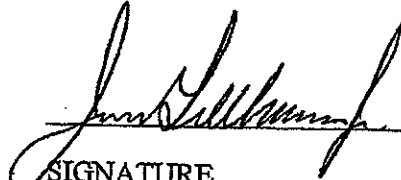
ERIN McCARTY, BOARD MEMBER  
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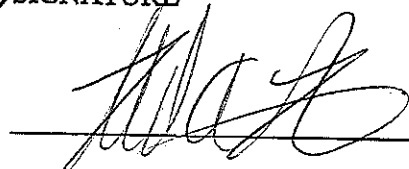
ERIKA LAWYER, vice-chair  
NAME, TITLE

  
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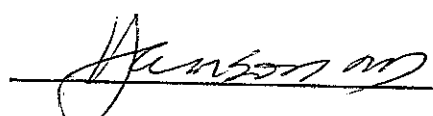
MICHAEL BAETZKE, CHAIR  
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Jim Gillhouse, Board Member  
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Gregory S. Hanson, MD, CEO  
NAME, TITLE